

David C. Thompson, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer, Marine Aviation Detachment, Patuxent River Naval Air Station



Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, a native of Nashua, NH, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in November 1982. After graduating from boot camp at Parris Island, SC in June 1983, he reported for follow-on training at the Infantry Training School at Camp Geiger, NC where he earned the MOS 0331, Machine Gunner. He reported for Reserve duty to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, where he drilled until August 1986. During that time, he participated in Exercise Battle Griffin in Norway, achieved the rank of Corporal, and was assigned as a Machine Gun Squad Leader of the Weapons Platoon.

Lieutenant Colonel Thompson earned his commission through the Platoon Leaders Course program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Geology. After graduating from The Basic School for Officer Training in April 1991, he joined the Presidential Helicopter Squadron, HMX-1 as a member of the Logistics Department until departing for Flight School in July 1991. At Flight School, he was a member of Training Squadron Two (VT-2) and Helicopter Training Squadron Eighteen (HT-18), finally earning his Naval Aviator's wings in December 1992.

Reporting to Marine Helicopter Training Squadron Three Zero Three (HMT-303), MCAS Camp Pendleton for instruction in the UH-1N "Huey", then First Lieutenant Thompson completed the training syllabus and reported to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron Two Six Nine (HMLA-269) at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, NC.

After arriving at HMLA-269 in July 1993, he participated in Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) 9/10-93 at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twenty Nine Palms and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School in Brunswick, ME before attaching to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron Three Six Five (Reinforced) (HMM-365(Rein)) for Two Six Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) (26MEU(SOC)) workups and deployment. While there he held the billet of Personnel Readiness Officer and earned the Utility Helicopter Commander (UHC) flight designation. During the 26MEU(SOC) deployment, then Captain Thompson participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and Operations Provide Promise and Deny Flight in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Finishing this deployment in November 1994, he returned to HMLA-269.

Between deployments at HMLA-269, Captain Thompson attended the Aviation Safety Officer (ASO) Course in April 1995, Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course 1-96 at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1), and several CAXs. He held the billets of UH Scheduling Officer and Aviation Safety Officer and earned the Basic Instructor Pilot, Section Leader, Division Leader, and Air Combat Maneuver (Instructor) flight designations.

In May 1996, Captain Thompson again attached to HMM-365(Rein) for his second 26MEU(SOC) work-up and deployment. During this deployment he participated in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Operation Silver Wake in Albania. While there he held the billet of Aviation Safety Officer.

After returning from his second deployment in June 1997, Captain Thompson transferred to HMT-303 as a UH-1N instructor pilot. At HMT-303, he served as the Personnel Readiness (S-5) Department Head, Airframes Division/Flight Equipment Officer, and UH Operations Officer. During this time he was accepted into the Special Education Program at the Naval Postgraduate School, but deferred attending for one year due to volunteering to augment HMLA-267 in October 1999 as a UH-1N instructor pilot and Operations Officer.

At HMLA-267, he participated in another CAX and Joint Exercise Millennium Edge in South Korea while deployed to Okinawa, Japan on the Unit Deployment Program. During his time at HMLA-267, he was promoted to Major, held the billets of UH-1N Operations Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, Department of Safety and Standardization Head, and Assistant Aircraft Maintenance Officer while earning the Night Systems Instructor flight designation.

Returning from Okinawa, Major Thompson immediately reported to the Naval Postgraduate School in July 2001 to study Systems Acquisition Management. Graduating in March 2003 with a Masters of Science in Management, Major Thompson reported to Program Management Aviation Office Two Seventy Six (PMA-276) at Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Patuxent River, MD. He was initially assigned as the Military Deputy Program Manager (DPM) for Fielded USMC AH-1W and UH-1N aircraft and USMC & USN HH-1N Search and Rescue (SAR) aircraft operating in combat and at multiple sites around the world.

As the AH-1W and UH/HH-1N DPM and Integrated Product Team (IPT) leader, Major Thompson was responsible for the coordination of all Program Management, Budget & Finance, Engineering, and Logistics Support for the HMLA community and the USMC and USN HH-1N SAR communities. He led a team of 39 acquisition professionals and supervised the execution of an annual budget of over \$35 Million. He planned and executed the accelerated installation of new or upgraded Aircraft Survivability Equipment on all UH-1N Hueys and AH-1W Cobras deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom II and already deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom.

In his next PMA-276 assignment as Military DPM of the \$1.4 Billion Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) effort for the AH-1Z and UH-1Y, he coordinated and supervised the day-to-day efforts of the EMD IPT during the critical time leading up to Operational Evaluation, and worked closely with Government and Bell Helicopter personnel to resolve major program issues, resolve contract disputes, and negotiate modifications to the EMD contract.

Lieutenant Colonel Thompson was then assigned as the Military DPM for the Production of the AH-1Z and UH-1Y. He was responsible for leading a team of over 100 acquisition professionals and the execution of an annual budget of over \$300 Million. He was also responsible for the implementation of production and assembly processes at the Bell Helicopter assembly plant in Amarillo TX, delivery of Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), and working closely with Government and Bell Helicopter personnel to resolve major program issues, resolve contract disputes, and negotiate modifications to the AH-1Z and UH-1Y Production contract. While in this position, he was selected as an Acquisition Professional with the primary MOS of 8059. He was promoted to his present rank in December of 2005.

Lieutenant Colonel Thompson assumed the duties of Executive Officer for the Marine Aviation Detachment at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in July of 2007. While there he was responsible for administrative oversight and professional development of over 100 Marine Officers working in the various aviation acquisition program offices at NAVAIR. He organized multiple Marine Selection Boards to assist in the selection of Acquisition Professionals, NAVAIR Program Managers, Test Pilots, and Astronauts.

In February of 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Thompson deployed to Iraq as an Individual Augment (IA) with Marine Aircraft Group Two Six (MAG-26) to act as the NAVAIR Liaison Officer (LNO). During this deployment he assisted with the initial fielding of the Directed Infra Red Counter Measures (DIRCM) system on the CH-53E and initial USMC integration of the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) Blue Force Tracker (BFT) on aircraft in combat. Traveling to multiple bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, he

assisted in the development of USMC Standard Operating Procedures for the BFT. While deployed, Lieutenant Colonel Thompson was selected as the next Project Manager for the Robotic System Joint Project Office in Warren, Michigan.

Lieutenant Colonel Thompson's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy/ Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with Gold Star in lieu of second award), and Navy/ Marine Corps Achievement Medal.